



Te Kura o Hau Karetu

He waka eke noa: *We're all in this waka together*
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21 April 2026

Kia ora, Talofa Lava, Mālō e lelei, Kia orana, Namaste, Kumusta,

Welcome back to school everyone! Term 2 is always an exciting term where we are checking to see where our children are at in regards to their progress at school, and we're starting to collect some data around that to present to you in your child's report. This year, we won't have the reports to you until the beginning of term 3 due to all the curriculum and assessment changes, but you are always welcome to come and see your teacher about your child's progress at any time – you don't need to wait for their report.

Nau mai haere mai to our new students: Autumn who has started in Ngā Pōtiki this week, and as well, Jaylah who is starting tomorrow in Te Waipuna – we are so happy to have you at our kura!

School Closure today (21st April): We made the decision to close last night due to a few factors:

- 1) that there was a Red Weather Warning which in NZ means to take action to protect yourself and your property and to take immediate action to keep yourself and others safe from the impact of the weather as there could be damage to property and people, and
- 2) In February, when we had severe weather conditions and other schools in the region closed but we remained open, many people were confused by the messaging and ended up not sending their children to school. This time, the decision to close was made as a collective by the Upper Hutt Cluster of Schools and their Boards, so that there was no confusion.
- 3) Many of the staff working in schools have to travel from all around the region, and travelling at a red alert level is highly dangerous.

We understand that children have just returned from holiday back to school which is frustrating, and that this is hugely inconvenient for those of you who are working or who had other plans. As well, it turns out that the weather was downgraded to an orange weather warning, and that it's just like a horrible winter's day.

We would like to thank you all so much for your support today, and hope that the children had some fun with their alternative education day using some of the great ideas their teachers forwarded through.



Congratulations to the Te Hau Karetu Pango Touch Rugby Team. They won the y5/6 mixed grade. They were coached by Kiara's mum, Kiriona Hapeta. Thank you so much Kiriona! We are so proud of you all not only because you won the tournament, but also because you represented our school in such a mana enhancing way.

Did you know that our school motto is: "**Whakamanahia Ngā ākongā kātoa – uplifting the mana of all our learners**". You have all worked well towards this Kaupapa.



Caution – wasps – Right by the apple trees in the carpark, are a whole lot of wasps who are feasting on the apples both in the trees and on the ground (a lesson to us that we should pick the apples a bit earlier!). Please be very careful when you are over in the corner by the bins – we don't want anyone being stung. Hopefully this cold snap will help kill them off. We've already had 4 wasps nests poisoned. There must be another one around somewhere!

Wet Weather – with all the rain we've had, when children are playing outside, they often fall over and sometimes get pretty wet. We would appreciate it if you would pop a **change of clothes** in your child's bag please, just in case. Also, it's probably safe to say that it's **gumboot season**, so if your child has a pair of gumboots, please sent them to school – named preferably! 😊

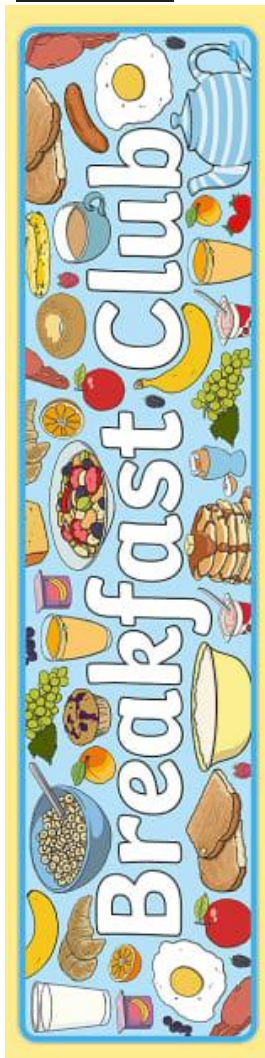
With the cold weather, it's also important that children **wear appropriate clothing**. We noticed that children were wearing shorts yesterday, and some had no jackets, and it was freezing cold! If your child doesn't own a jacket, please let us know – we have some Kids Can jackets that are so warm!

Drop offs in the morning – if you are dropping your child off in the morning, the gates at the end of the admin block and by the street will be left open until 9am, so children can enter the school grounds instead of walking through the office. The only time we want children walking through the office is when they are late – after 9am. Thank you.

And a reminder to please drop your child off at the gate so they can walk into the school unless they are a new entrant or that they have a disability. Thank you.



Volunteers – this is a plea to have volunteers to help us with **Tuesday morning's Breakfast Club**. Currently, we only have **Matua Henry** who is managing all by himself!



At Te Kura o Hau Karetu, as dawn starts to creep,
 While most of us yawn and would rather stay asleep,
 There's a hero already, up bright and keen—
 Matua Henry... our breakfast machine.
 With toast flying high and weet-bix in bowls,
 He's buttering bread like he's scoring goals,
 Pouring the milk, calling "Next in line!"
 All with a smile (and running on time... just fine).
 But here's the thing—though he won't make a fuss,
 He's *slightly* outnumbered... about 20 to 1, plus!
 With little hands reaching and tummies to fill,
 Even legends like Henry could use a refuel.
 So we're putting the call out—yes, YOU, that's right!
 To join in the morning, bring laughter and light.
 No need for chef skills or a fancy degree,
 Just a kind heart, warm smile, and a love of a cuppa tea.
 You might pour some cereal, or butter some toast,
 Or just share a kōrero—that matters the most.
 Because breakfast club's more than just food on a plate,
 It's connection and care that help kids feel great.
 And bonus points here (just quietly said):
 You'll earn "legend status" like Henry instead.
 Apron optional—but highly admired,
 And unlimited "thank yous" are fully supplied!
 So if you've got a morning (or even just one),
 Come join the crew—it's actually quite fun.
 Help lighten the load for our breakfast champ,
 And keep those wee bellies happy and amped.
 Matua Henry's amazing—we think you'll agree...
 But even superheroes need a sidekick (or three).

Property News – have you seen our new gates down the back of the school? As well, we have higher fencing still being completed by the train tracks. This is not quite finished, and there is temporary fencing up by the hall to keep children safe while the job is completed.

Timetable adjustment – we have a slight adjustment to our play times this term:

Morning tea time play	11-11.20 then eat until 11.30
Lunch time play	12.30-1pm then eat until 1.10 or whenever little tummies are satisfied

Important Notices & Reminders:

- **Mondayised ANZAC Day – Monday 27th April** – we are closed on this day as it is a public holiday
- **Friday 8th May** – we are closed for instruction due to a teacher only day.
- **Peanut-Free School:** We are now a **peanut-free** school. We ask that no peanut products are brought to school, including peanut butter and foods containing **peanuts**. Note that when a packet says, "may contain traces of nuts", this is OK. Our school lunches do not contain peanuts. **Please note that we are not talking about all nuts. Only peanuts.**



- **Student Attendance expectations:** Regular attendance at school is important to your child's success. Making sure students attend and engage in learning is a shared responsibility. As a parent, you are responsible for making sure your child attends school every day.

If your child is going to be absent for any reason, it is essential that you let us know as soon as possible. It is important that you:

- phone on 045269552, or
- text on 0275269552, or
- email to: office@tehaukaretu.school.nz, or
- message on the Skool Loop app,

to confirm your child's absence and provide us with the reason.

We can work with you to develop a support plan that addresses any barriers to regular attendance, just let us know.

- **Fundraising:** If anyone is keen on being part of our PSG fundraising group, please let Roseanne or Rachel know at the office, and we'll put you in touch with Whaea Jewel who is our PSG leader. Thank you.
- **Nits/Kutu** – Nits are an ongoing issue with schools and kids – it's like the magic combination. Treatment can't just be a one off – that it needs to happen often. We have nit treatment and combs at school – please let the office or your teacher know you need some. You can also get nit treatment on prescription from your GP.

A useful video link for how to treat nits: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e9y6c3Opr9w>. Thank you.

Ngā mihi nui,
Karen Wellington
Tumuaki/Principal

Important Dates and Events:

Week 1 20-24 April	School Starts Monday 20 th April
Week 2 27 Apr-1 May	Monday 27 th April – Mondayised ANZAC holiday
Week 3 4-8 May	Friday 8 th May – Teacher Only Day – do not come to school on this day Monday 4 th May – Tough Gal/Guy Challenge Tuesday 5 th May – Senior Football at TMP
Week 4 11-15 May	
Week 5 18-22 May	Wednesday 20 th May – Basketball Saints in School 1pm Thursday 21 st May - Spell it Out @ MIS for Year 6 students Friday 22 nd May – School Cross Country
Week 6 25-29 May	
Week 7 1-5 June	Interschool Cross Country – Sunday 7 th June
Week 8 8-12 June	King's Birthday – Monday 7 th June 9 th June – MIS sport's day for year 6's
Week 9 15-19 June	
Week 10 22-26 June	
Week 11 29 Jun-3 July	Last day for term 2, Friday 3 rd July First day back for term 3 – Monday 20 th July